

Messianic Prophecies Session 1

Younis Francis



What is Prophecy?

- ▶ A message inspired by God,
- ▶ A divine revelation.
- ▶ The Bible says that prophets “spoke from God as they were moved by holy spirit.” (2 Peter 1:20, 21).

How did prophets receive information from God?

- ▶ *God used several methods to transmit his thoughts to his prophets:*
- ▶ **Writing.** At least one case where God directly supplying to Moses the Ten Commandments in written form.—Exodus 31:18
- ▶ **Oral communication through angels.** God used an angel to instruct Moses saying: “Write down **these words**, because in accordance with **these words**, I am making a covenant with you and with Israel.”—Exodus 34:27.
- ▶ **Visions/Dreams.** sometimes given while the prophet was awake and fully conscious. (Isaiah 1:1; Habakkuk 1:1) (Luke 9:28-36; Revelation 1:10-17) At other times, while the recipient was in a trance. (Acts 10:10, 11; 22:17-21).

Messianic Prophecies

- ▶ NT frequently quotes OT to state that Jesus is the promised Messiah
- ▶ These quotations/ references are taken from various books of the OT.

Messianic Prophecies

- ▶ OT includes about 60 prophecies & more than 300 references about the coming of the Messiah.
- ▶ It was through the fulfilment of these prophecies Israel was to recognize the Messiah.
- ▶ Gospels record several times - Jesus saying He was fulfilling a prophecy of the OT.
- ▶ Luke 24:27 records, for example, “And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”
- ▶ And verse 44 notes - “And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that **all things must be fulfilled**, which were written in the law of Moses, and the prophets and the psalms, concerning me.”

Messianic Prophecies

- ▶ There are direct quotes of OT about Jesus in the Gospels
- ▶ 54 in Matthew
- ▶ 27 direct quotations in the Gospel of Mark
- ▶ 24 in Luke
- ▶ 14 in John

Messianic Prophecies

- ▶ Jews – however do not regard any of these as having been fulfilled by Jesus, and in some cases do not regard them as messianic prophecies at all.

Messianic Prophecies

- ▶ Jews hold that the Messiah has not yet come - because the Messianic Age has not started yet.
- ▶ Messiah will occupy the throne of David.
- ▶ Messiah will completely change life & establish a Kingdom of Peace & Justice
- ▶ All pain and suffering will be conquered

Messianic Age

- ▶ According to Jewish tradition, the Messianic Era will be one of:
- ▶ Global peace and harmony;
- ▶ An era free of strife and hardship.
- ▶ The theme of the Messiah ushering in an era of global peace is encapsulated in two of the most famous scriptural passages from the Book of Isaiah

Messianic Age

- ▶ They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift sword against nation and they will no longer study warfare — *Isaiah 2:4*
- ▶ The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea - — *Isaiah 11:6-9*

Messianic Age

- ▶ According to the Book of Jeremiah, messianic times would be sealed by the *new covenant*, final and eternal one, written "on their hearts" (Jer 31:31).
- ▶ Ezekiel would say that the holiness of the people would in turn be met by special love, favour and protection from God: "I will make a covenant of peace" and "set up my sanctuary among them for ever." (Ezk 37:24; 39:29)

Messianic Age

- ▶ Christians believe:
 - ▶ According to Isaiah, the messianic age was to have its anointed leader, the Messiah, who would be filled with the gifts of the spirit to be able to accomplish his saving work.
(Is 11:1-3; 42:1; 61:1;

Messianic Age

- ▶ Christian eschatology points out to gradual character of the Messianic Age. It teaches:
- ▶ the Messianic Era, a time of universal peace and brotherhood on the earth, without crime, war and poverty, to some extent, is already here.
- ▶ With the crucifixion of Jesus the Messianic Era has begun but it will be completed and brought to perfection by the parousia of Christ.
- ▶ The messianic age sometimes is also interpreted in terms of Millenarianism.
- ▶ The Book of Revelation 20:2-3 gives an image of a 1000-year period in which Satan is to be bound, and Jesus Christ will reign on the Earth with resurrected saints. After that Satan will be defeated once and for all, the Earth and heaven will pass away, and people will face judgment by Jesus Christ to determine whether or not they will enter the new heaven and earth that will be established. (Rev 21)

Genesis 3: 15

- ▶ Prophecy
- ▶ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

Genesis 12:3

The nations will be blessed through Abraham's lineage

- ▶ **Prophecy:**
- ▶ “I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Genesis 12:3).
- ▶ **Fulfilment:**
- ▶ “And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’ When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways” (Acts 3:25–26).

Deuteronomy 18:15

- ▶ **Deut 18:15** *speaks of a prophet being raised from among the Jewish nation: The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet.*
- ▶ By the time of Jesus, this promise of Moses was understood to refer to a special individual.
- ▶ In John 6:14, after the multiplication of the loaves, people are quoted as saying, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world."

2 Samuel 7:12–13

- ▶ **Prophecy:**
- ▶ “When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever” (2 Samuel 7:12–13).
- ▶ **Fulfilment:**
- ▶ “This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham” (Matthew 1:1)



Messianic Prophecies

Isaiah 7:14

- ▶ *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, the young woman shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel*
- ▶ Early Christian tradition interpreted this verse as a reference to the mother of Jesus.-The prophet Isaiah, addressing king Ahaz of Judah, promises the king that God will destroy his enemies, and as a sign - a "young woman" ("almah") will give birth to a child whose name will be Immanuel, "God is with us", and that the threat from the enemy kings will be ended before the child grows up.
- ▶ Matthew uses this verse to support its claim of the supernatural origins of Jesus.
- ▶ At the time of Jesus, the Jews no longer spoke Hebrew, Bible was translated into Greek and Aramaic, two commonly used languages.
- ▶ In original Hebrew, the word *almah* means a young woman of childbearing age or who is a mother, but the Greek translation of Isaiah 7:14 rendered *almah* as *parthenos*, the Greek word for "virgin". Many scholars agree that *almah* has nothing to do with virginity, others use this meaning to justify Isaiah 7:14.

Isaiah 9:1–2

► **Prophecy**

- *... there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.*
- According to both Jewish and Christian interpretation, the prophet Isaiah was commanded to inform the people of Israel in a prophecy that Sennacherib's plunder of the Ten Tribes was at hand, and that Nebuchadnezzar's spoil of Jerusalem, in later years, was coming nearer.

Isaiah 9:1–2

- ▶ The reign of **Hezekiah** saw a notable increase in the power of the Judean state. Hezekiah was successful in his wars against the Philistines, retaking all the cities that his father had lost, but even conquered others belonging to the Philistines.
- ▶ He also reincorporated some of the northern territories into the kingdom of Judah and restore the boundaries of the country as it was under David.
- ▶ At this time Judah was the strongest nation on the Assyrian-Egyptian frontier. The "messianic oracle" (*"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."*) may have coincided with the coronation of Hezekiah and looked toward the deliverance of the Israelites living in the northern provinces.

Isaiah 9:1–2

- ▶ According to Jewish tradition, the salvation of which Isaiah speaks is the miraculous end of Sennacherib's siege of Jerusalem (see Isaiah 36 and 37) in the days of the Prince of Peace, King Hezekiah, a son of King Ahaz.
- ▶ Matthew cites the messianic oracle, when Jesus began his ministry in Galilee:
- ▶ *And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." — Mt 4:12–16*

Isaiah 9:6,7

- ▶ *For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*
- ▶ Christians believe these verses refers to the birth of Jesus as the Messiah.

Isaiah 40:3–4

▶ **Prophecy:**

▶ “A voice of one calling:

‘In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain’” (Isaiah 40:3–4).

▶ **Fulfillment:**

▶ “John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, ‘I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, “Make straight the way for the Lord” (John 1:23).

Isaiah 61:1

▶ **Prophecy:**

▶ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners”

▶ **Fulfillment:**

▶ “He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

▶ ‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

▶ “Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, ‘Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing’” (Luke 4:16–21).

Jeremiah 31:15

- ▶ *Thus says the LORD:
A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.*
- ▶ Matthew 2:17–18 gives the Massacre of the Innocents by Herod the Great as the fulfilment of a prophecy allegedly given by this verse in Jeremiah.
- ▶ The phrase “for her children are no more” is believed to refer to the captivity of Rachel's children in Assyria. The subsequent verses describe their return to Israel.

Ezekiel 37:24, 25–27

- ▶ And David my servant [shall be] king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.
- ▶ Ezekiel 37:24 refers to a person coming from the House of David as the servant of God, unique Shepherd of Israel, which will rule over the House of Judah (v. 16) and over the Tribe of Joseph (v. 17) so that he will "make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand" (v. 19), in a unique nation of Israel.
- ▶ Verses from 15 to 24 cannot be referring to King David, because Ezekiel (622–570 BCE) wrote in the 7th BC, Therefore, as the "stick of Judah" stands for the House of Judah, and the "stick of Joseph" stands for his tribe (verse 19).

Micah 5:2

- ▶ But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.
- ▶ This verse near the end of Micah's prophecy on the Babylonian captivity has been interpreted by Christians, (John 7:42, as a prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.
- ▶ Although Matthew & Luke give different accounts Jesus' birth, but both say he was born in Bethlehem.
- ▶ Matthew describes Herod asking the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah was to be born. They respond by quoting Micah,
- ▶ 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Zechariah 9:9

- ▶ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
- ▶ Christians have interpreted Zechariah 9:9 as a prophecy of an act of messianic self-humiliation. The Gospel of John links this verse to the account of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem:
 - ▶ ... took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and began to shout, "Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, even the King of Israel." Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, "FEAR NOT, DAUGHTER OF ZION; BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING, SEATED ON A DONKEY'S COLT." — John 12:13–15

Hosea 11:1

- ▶ *Flight into Egypt & Prophecy of Hosea*
- ▶ *When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.*
- ▶ In its original context - this referred to deliverance of Israel from Egypt.
- ▶ Matthew applies it to the return of Jesus from Egypt as a messianic prophecy:
- ▶ *An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son" — Matthew 2:13-15*



Messianic Prophecies